

Application No.: 10/808,149

Amendment and Response dated: February 22, 2007

Reply to Office Action dated: November 22, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 5-7, 12-14, and 18-20 are withdrawn.

The Drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a). Claims 1-4, 8-11, and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 3-4, 8, and 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yamaguchi et al., hereinafter ("Yamaguchi"), US Pat. 5,243,482. Claims 1-2, 8-9, and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Subrahmanyam et al., hereinafter ("Subrahmanyam"), US Pat. 7,006,330. Claims 15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamaguchi. Claims 1, 8, and 15 are amended to correct clerical errors and overcome the current §112 rejections.

With regard to the objections to the Drawings, Applicants submit drawing figures are submitted "where necessary for the understanding of the subject matter to be patented." See 35 U.S.C. §113, also 37 C.F.R. §1.81(a). Applicants submit the term "controller" as described in paragraph [0003] of the specification and as applied to claimed embodiments of the present application (e.g., claim 8) would be easily understood by one of ordinary skill in the art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Regarding the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection of claim 8, the Office Action asserts it is not clear how a slider fixture is formed on a suspension. See *id.* Support may be found at least at paragraphs [0016], [0017], and [0018] of the specification.

Regarding the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection of claim 15, the Office Action asserts it is not clear how "coupling a slider with the slider fixture by applying an adhesive substance to the suspension" can be accomplished without applying an adhesive to the fixture. See *id.* First, Applicants submit the Office Action misquotes claim 8; claim 8 states: "...coupling

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the slider with the slider fixture by applying an adhesive substance to the slider or the suspension...". To the extent the Office Action seeks clarification regarding the coupling of the slider fixture to the slider by applying adhesive to the suspension, the claim clearly describes "forming a slider fixture on the suspension." As such, applying the adhesive to the suspension may couple the slider fixture to the slider.

Withdrawal of all 35 U.S.C. §112 rejections is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit the cited references fail to teach or suggest at least "[a] suspension assembly, comprising: ... a slider fixture formed on the suspension to couple with portions of at least two surfaces of the slider other than a surface facing the data storage medium having a set of connecting pads" (e.g., as described in claim 1). The Office Action asserts Yamaguchi discloses the relevant limitations, citing Figures 3 and 5 generally. See Office Action dated 11/22/2006, paragraph 8. Applicants disagree.

Figure 3 describes, among other things, a slider embodiment 1 comprising finger portions 52, central tongue portion 53, load projection 54 and stepped portion 57. It does not describe at least a slider fixture formed on a suspension at all.

Figure 5 describes another view of a slider embodiment wherein the finger portion 52 is connected to step member 55 and coupling member 56. None of these elements constitute a *slider fixture formed on a suspension* at all. Applicants submit the Yamaguchi reference, including cited Figures 3 and 5, fails to describe at least these relevant limitations.

Furthermore, Applicants submit the Subrahmanyam reference fails to describe the relevant limitations as well. The Office Action asserts Subrahmanyam describes the relevant

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limitations, citing element 64 and Figure 7 generally. *See* Office Action dated 11/22/2006, paragraph 9.

Element 64 is described in Subrahmanyam as a "gimbal". *See* column 5, lines 59, 64 (among others). Applicants submit it would be easily understood by one of ordinary skill in the art that a gimbal as described in Subrahmanyam is not the same as a "slider fixture" as described in claimed embodiments of the present application.

Figure 7 is a view of a head gimbal assembly illustrating the electrical connections of the embodiment. *See* Brief Description, column 4, lines 12-15. It describes, among other things, a slider 44, dielectric layer 100, ground conductive pads 98 and 70, and leading end 84, but does not describe at least a slider fixture formed on a suspension at all (*e.g.*, as described in claim 1). Applicants submit the Subrahmanyam reference, including cited Figure 7, fails to describe at least these relevant limitations.

Therefore, since the cited references fail to teach or suggest each and every limitation of claim 1, claim 1 is presently allowable and the current §102 rejections should be withdrawn. Independent claims 8 and 15 describe similar allowable limitations, and therefore are allowable as well. Claims 2-4, 9-11, and 16-17 are allowable for depending from allowable base claims.

The Applicants respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (408) 975-7950 to discuss any matter concerning this application.

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The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments
under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

KENYON & KENYON LLP

Dated: February 22, 2007

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